

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/812,077

Examiner

Duy K Le

Applicant(s)

HILTUNEN, KARI

Art Unit

2685

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed June 14, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-43.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06/29/01 and 06/14/04 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 09202004.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Jack M. Pasquale on September 14, 2004.

2. The application has been amended as follows.
3. Claims 1-19 have been cancelled.
4. Independent claims 20, 26, 35, and 39 were amended to read as follows:

20. Method for manufacturing a touch sensitive navigational surface for a communication device of the type having a cover for carrying the appropriate circuitry to carry out the intended functions of the communication device wherein the cover includes an outer wall surface portion for carrying a user interface, the method comprising the steps of:

providing an electromechanical dielectric (EMD) film for activating a corresponding desired user interface operational function to be carried out by the communication device;

providing injection molding apparatus having one or more component molds to carry out an injection molding process for molding the cover;

molding the cover using a suitable injection molding process;

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locating and placing the EMD film in an orientation and position in the mold on the outer surface portion of the molded cover such that the EMD film outer surface and the outer wall surface of the molded cover [are co-extensive with one another] form a substantially continuous surface across the molded cover outer wall surface, and

molding the outer wall surface portion of the molded cover and the EMD film outer surface with a thin flexible protective polymer layer thereby forming and defining an integral unit.

26. A communication device having a touch sensitive navigational surface, the communication device having cover for carrying the appropriate electronic circuitry to carry out the intended functions of the communication device, said cover having an outer wall surface portion for carrying a user interface, said device comprising:

an electromechanical dielectric (EMD) film electrically connected to the appropriate electronic circuitry for activating a corresponding desired user interface operational function to be carried out by the communication device;

said cover being an injection molded cover;

said EMD film being oriented and positioned on the outer wall surface portion of the cover for injection molding with the cover whereby the EMD film [is coextensive] forms a substantially continuous surface with at least a portion of the outer wall surface of the cover, and

a thin flexible polymer layer molded over the outer wall surface of the cover and the EMD film thereby forming and defining an integral unit.

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35. A touch sensitive navigational surface for a communication device of the type have a cover for carrying the appropriate electronic circuitry to carry out the intended functions of the communication device, said cover having an outer wall surface portion, said touch sensitive navigational surface comprising:

an electromechanical dielectric (EMD) film oriented and positioned on the outer wall surface portion of the cover for injection molding with the cover, said EMD film forming a part of [and being co-extensive with] at least a portion of the outer wall surface defining an injection molded cover;

a thin flexible polymer layer molded over the outer wall surface and said EMD film defining said injection molded cover thereby forming and defining an integral units, and

said EMD film being electrically connected to the appropriate electronic circuitry for activating a corresponding function of the communication device in response to a touching contact made by a user along the surface of said flexible polymer layer in the region covering said EMD film.

39. Method for manufacturing a communication device having a touch sensitive navigational surface, the communication device having a cover for carrying appropriate circuitry to carry out the intended functions of the communication device, said cover having an outer wall surface portion, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an electromechanical dielectric (EMD) film;

orienting and positioning the EMD film in a mold for the cover;

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injection molding the cover and the EMD film such that the EMD film outer surface and the outer wall surface portion of the molded cover [are co-extensive with one another] form a substantially continuous surface, and

molding a thin flexible polymer layer over the injection molded EMD film and outer wall surface portion thereby forming and defining an integral unit.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 20-43 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claims 20, 26, 35, and 39, the prior art of record fails to show or fairly suggest a method for manufacturing a touch sensitive navigational surface for a communication device comprising locating and placing the EMD film in an orientation and position in the mold on the outer surface portion of the molded cover such that the EMD film outer surface and the outer wall surface of the molded cover form a substantially continuous surface across the molded cover outer wall surface, and molding the outer wall surface portion of the molded cover and the EMD film outer surface with a thin flexible protective polymer layer thereby forming and defining an integral unit, in combination with other features cited in the claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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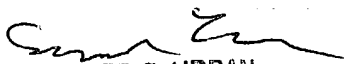
Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duy K Le whose telephone number is 703-305-5660. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward F Urban can be reached on 703-305-4385. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Duy Le
September 20, 2004


EDWARD F. URBAN
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